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Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Seventy-second year

Identical letters dated 16 June 2017 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

Throughout the month of June, countries, civil society and individuals around the world have joined in solidarity with the Palestinian people as they solemnly marked 50 years of Israel's occupation of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip since 1967. As we reflect on this sombre anniversary and the devastating impact of this brutal foreign occupation on the Palestinian people and their land, it is beyond regrettable that a political horizon to end this grave, massive injustice remains absent as Israel, the occupying Power, shows no indication or intention of halting its illegal policies and practices, and on the contrary only persists with its entrenchment of the occupation and its subjugation of the Palestinian civilian population.

While Israel's impunity and intransigence continue to douse hopes for a peaceful solution, eroding every single day the prospects of achieving the two-State solution on the 1967 lines, it also continues to propel the deterioration of the situation on the ground and to compound the never-ending list of countless human rights violations, including war crimes, against the Palestinian people. Since our previous letter regarding the situation in Occupied Palestine, including East Jerusalem, the criminal actions by Israeli occupying forces have continued, no doubt bolstered by this culture of impunity and lawlessness insisted on by the Israeli Government, even in times of peace process, and the global failure to hold Israel accountable for any of its violations against the Palestinian people for over a half-century.

As with its constant oppression of the Palestinian people, the occupying Power has been unrelenting in its colonial settlement enterprise, whether announcing "intentions" to build or actually building more Israeli settlements on occupied Palestinian land, in grave breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention and a war crime under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. The signs are blatant and innumerable that the Israeli Government has no intention whatsoever of ceasing its settlement activities — despite the unequivocal demand by the Security Council in resolution 2334 (2016) for a complete and immediate cessation of all settlement

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activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem — and no intention to foster the conditions necessary to open a political horizon to salvage the two-State solution.

In this regard, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu declared the previous week, "Alongside our desire to reach an agreement with our Palestinian neighbours, we will continue to protect the settlement enterprise and strengthen it." He went on to state, "We are doing this responsibly and with discretion." One does not need to read between the lines to know that Israel constantly contradicts itself with such statements, as with its illegal policies and practices, since settlements will clearly never lead to peace. On the contrary, such illegal and destructive practices are the main obstacle to achieving a peaceful settlement and constitute the biggest threat to the two-State solution. There is no such thing as "responsible" settlement building, and any attempt to legalize the illegal must never be tolerated and must be roundly condemned.

At the same time, since our previous letter, Israel, the occupying Power has persisted with all other human rights violations against the Palestinian people, including its arrest and detention raids throughout the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Palestinian civilians continue to be detained daily, with young men and boys fiercely targeted by the Israeli occupying forces, who routinely assault, humiliate and abuse Palestinian civilians that they have arbitrarily arrested or detained.

In this connection, it is also necessary to draw your attention to the dire health conditions of many of the prisoners who participated in the 40-day hunger strike that ended on 27 May and was initiated to highlight the critical plight of the over 6,500 Palestinian prisoners and detainees being held by the occupying Power and to appeal for respect for their basic human rights. It should be recalled that Israel responded to this peaceful, non-violent protest with harsh punitive measures, adding to their suffering. Many of the hunger strikers continue to suffer serious health consequences, including physical deterioration such as brain damage and vision problems. We thus urgently call for attention to be given to any Palestinian prisoner in need of medical assistance. At the same time, we continue to call for an end to all types of abuse and to inhumane treatment of Palestinians in Israeli captivity, while also reiterating our calls for the release of all Palestinian prisoners and detainees.

In addition to the above, the Palestinian people living in the Gaza Strip continue to suffer tremendously from the dire humanitarian crisis caused by Israel's suffocating and immoral decade-long blockade, an act of gross collective punishment. Moreover, the occupying forces continue to attack Palestinians living there, including the killing of Ayed Khamis Jumaa (age 35), who was shot in the head with live ammunition during clashes between Palestinian civilians and Israeli forces in northern Gaza. Six other Palestinians were also injured by Israeli fire. Israeli occupying forces also continue to fire at Palestinian fishermen off the coast of the Gaza Strip, endangering their lives and placing them in a constant state of fear.

As all of this is happening, unabated and with grave impact on the Palestinian people and their hopes for an end to this injustice, Israel also continues its hostile attempts to silence anybody who reveals the truth about this abhorrent situation. One most recent example is the call by Israel to the United Nations to terminate the tenure of the Humanitarian Coordinator of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Robert Piper, or else threatening to revoke his residency permit. The cause of such punitive threats? Clearly it is in response to Mr. Piper faithfully carrying out his duties and reporting honestly on what he is witnessing on the ground. This type of arrogant behaviour has become a characteristic of Israeli policy, which is to threaten and intimidate anyone who dares speak the facts and the truth about the illegal and inhumane policies and practices of its brutal occupation, and it must not be tolerated.

After more than 50 years of occupation and nearly 70 years since Al-Nakba, we will not relent in our calls and efforts for international law to be upheld and the relevant resolutions to be implemented towards the realization of justice and the fulfilment of the Palestinian people's inalienable rights and legitimate national aspirations, including to independence in their State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and the attainment of a comprehensive and lasting peace, which we have for so long sought and which is so urgently needed for both regional and international peace and security. These objectives have become more urgent, not less, with the passage of decades and accumulation of crimes perpetrated by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people, and we call upon the international community to finally commit itself to bringing an end to the occupation and this injustice. Condemning 50 years of settlements, 50 years of war crimes, 50 years of occupation is no longer enough. It is time for genuine and concerted action.

Before concluding, below we share just some of the many crimes perpetrated by the occupying Power in the period since our previous letter to you:

26 May 2017

- Israeli occupying forces detained at least seven Palestinians and sealed a supermarket during multiple raids across the West Bank.
- A group of Israeli settlers attacked Palestinian commercial shops under the protection of occupying forces in central Al-Khalil (Hebron).

29 May 2017

- Occupying forces detained at least 18 Palestinians, mostly in overnight raids across the West Bank.

30 May 2017

- Israeli occupying forces opened fire at a Palestinian man (age 25) as he was walking near the beach in the northern Gaza Strip, injuring him.

2 June 2017

- Israeli occupying forces detained four Palestinian youths in Janin and Qalqilyah.
- A Palestinian girl, Nouf Infi'at (age 16), succumbed to wounds she sustained on 1 June after being shot by Israeli forces in Ya'bad, south of Janin.

3 June 2017

- Israeli navy occupying forces opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats off the Gaza coast.

4 June 2017

- Occupying forces destroyed eight coal production facilities and confiscated hundreds of tons of wood used for manufacturing charcoal, outside the town of Ya'bad.

7 June 2017

- Israeli settlers set up 13 tents and caravans on Palestinian privately owned land near the village of Dayr Istiya, near the town of Salfit.

- Occupying forces assaulted two Palestinians and seized a tractor in Qusrah village, south of Nablus.

8 June 2017

- Occupying forces detained at least 11 Palestinians across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

9 June 2017

- Israeli settlers vandalized several Palestinian-owned cars in Bayt Safafa, south of East Jerusalem.
- Israeli occupying forces shot dead Ayed Khamis Jumaa (age 35) and injured at least six other persons in the Gaza Strip.

11 June 2017

- Israeli occupying forces detained 14 Palestinians during overnight and early raids across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.
- Israeli occupying forces opened fire, attacking Palestinian farmers and fishermen in the Gaza Strip.

12 June 2017

- Israeli occupying forces detained at least 15 Palestinians during overnight raids across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.
- Israeli occupying forces served military orders to a Palestinian family informing it of the occupation's intentions to demolish their home in the Nuway'imah area, north of Jericho, citing bogus pretexts such as "building without a permit".

This letter is in follow-up to our 613 previous letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 24 May 2017 (A/ES-10/754-S/2017/447), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

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Letter dated 5 July 2017 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly

In accordance with the provisions of paragraph 6 (h) of General Assembly resolution ES-10/17, I have the honour to transmit herewith the progress report, dated 16 June 2017, from the Board of the United Nations Register of Damage Caused by the Construction of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) António **Guterres**

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Annex

Letter dated 16 June 2017 from the members of the Board of the United Nations Register of Damage Caused by the Construction of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to provide the progress report of the Board of the United Nations Register of Damage Caused by the Construction of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory for transmission to the General Assembly in accordance with paragraph 6 (h) of Assembly resolution ES-10/17 (see enclosure).

We request that the progress report be issued as a document of the General Assembly. Our 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 progress reports were issued as documents A/ES-10/455, A/ES-10/498, A/ES-10/522, A/ES-10/598, A/ES-10/599, A/ES-10/658, A/ES-10/683 and A/ES-10/730, respectively.

(*Signed*) Ronald **Bettauer**
Member of the Board

(*Signed*) Harumi **Hori**
Member of the Board

(*Signed*) Matti **Pellonpää**
Member of the Board

Enclosure

Progress report of the Board of the United Nations Register of Damage Caused by the Construction of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory

1. The Board of the United Nations Register of Damage Caused by the Construction of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory provides the present progress report, in accordance with paragraph 6 (h) of General Assembly resolution ES-10/17, covering the period from 25 June 2016 to 16 June 2017. The Board's 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 progress reports were contained in documents A/ES-10/455, A/ES-10/498, A/ES-10/522, A/ES-10/598, A/ES-10/599, A/ES-10/658, A/ES-10/683 and A/ES-10/730, respectively. Board progress reports, as well as other basic documents pertinent to the work of the Register of Damage, are posted on the Register's website (www.unrod.org).

2. During the reporting period, the Register of Damage continued to collect, process and consider claim forms for inclusion in the Register in accordance with its Rules and Regulations Governing the Registration of Claims.

3. Since its launch in 2008, the community outreach campaign has covered 265 communities with a population of approximately 1,290,000 in the governorates of Janin, Tubas, Tulkarm, Qalqilyah, Salfit, Ramallah, Hebron, Bethlehem and Jerusalem. Thousands of printed posters and leaflets have been distributed to inform potential claimants of the requirements for completing a claim for registration of damage. During the reporting period, over a hundred meetings were held by the claim intakers of the Register of Damage with governors, mayors, local councils and potential claimants in the areas covered by the outreach campaign. In addition, the Register of Damage organized two specialized training sessions for mayors and local council officials from the Bethlehem and Jerusalem governorates on legal and organizational aspects of claim intake in their communities.

4. By 16 June 2017, 62,578 claim forms for registration of damage and over 1 million supporting documents had been collected and delivered to the Office of the Register of Damage in Vienna. Claim-intake activities have been carried out in eight of the nine affected governorates — Tubas, Janin, Tulkarm, Qalqilyah, Salfit, Hebron, Ramallah and Bethlehem. The process of claim intake in Jerusalem governorate is at an advanced stage.

5. As at 16 June 2017, the Board had decided to include in the Register some or all of the losses set out in 26,789 claim forms and to exclude 1,023 claim forms in which none of the losses met the eligibility criteria, bringing the total number of decided claims to 27,812.

6. During the past year, the Office of the Register of Damage continued to process the claim forms at an accelerated pace. However, despite the diligent and dedicated work of the secretariat and the intensive work of the Board, there is a considerable gap between the number of claim forms collected and the number processed by the Office.

7. Since its previous report, the Board has held four meetings in Vienna to review claim forms that had been translated, processed and individually reviewed by the Office staff. The Board met from 19 to 23 September and from 12 to 16 December 2016 and from 13 to 17 March and from 12 to 16 June 2017. At the four meetings, the Board reviewed and decided to include in the Register some or all of the losses set out in 1,166 claim forms, 1,442 claim forms, 1,318 claim forms and 1,098 claim forms, respectively. It decided not to include 153 claim forms, 41 claim forms, 50

claim forms and 8 claim forms, respectively, since none of the losses in the forms met the eligibility criteria in the Rules and Regulations.

8. The claim forms reviewed during the reporting period included 4,228 containing category A (agriculture) losses, 420 containing category B (commercial) losses, 98 containing category C (residential) losses and 686 containing category E (access to services) losses.

9. The Board, in its review of claims, continued to apply the eligibility criteria in accordance with article 11 of the Rules and Regulations. In view of the limited time available and the large number of claims for losses included in claim forms submitted to the Board for review by the Office staff, the Board continued to employ sampling techniques as provided for in article 12 (3) of the Rules and Regulations. During the four meetings covered by the present report, Board members reviewed in detail approximately 9.84 per cent of the claims for losses included on the claim forms submitted for review. As indicated in the Board report of 2012, the Executive Director of the Register consulted a statistician informally concerning the sampling methodology applied by the Board. The level of sampling is within statistical parameters of reliability. Claims that did not meet the eligibility criteria were either excluded from the Register or returned to the claimants in order for them to provide clarification.

10. Previous Board progress reports identified some of the issues addressed and decisions reached during previous reporting periods. The following are among the issues addressed and decisions reached by the Board during the present reporting period:

(a) Land division agreements: the Board decided that in cases where a land division agreement signed by all the heirs is provided, the agreement constitutes sufficient proof of relinquishment of shares of the heirs who did not claim, and shares may be recorded in accordance with the land division agreement, even if they differ from the shares set out in the relevant certificate of legacy;

(b) Date of death: the Board decided that in cases where only the year of death and not the specific date of death is provided, the last day of the year (31 December) should be recorded as the date when the interest arose;

(c) Estate claims: the Board decided that a representative authorized by a mandatory heir under sharia law or an heir named in a certificate of legacy of a deceased person may submit an estate claim;

(d) Loss of access to fertilizers: the Board previously decided that losses relating to reduced agricultural output due to the prohibition on the import of fertilizers from Israel to the Occupied Palestinian Territory would not be included in the Register, given that Israeli restrictions in that regard already existed prior to the construction of the wall. The Board clarified that this does not apply to agricultural output and income losses resulting from the restriction on movement of fertilizers within the Occupied Palestinian Territory that may be directly attributable to the wall;

(e) Subsequent losses: the Board decided that in cases where claimants filed claims for subsequent losses (for example, losses resulting from a fire or a flood sometime after the construction of the wall) after the submission of their initial claims, it is necessary to review the initial claims and make any necessary revisions or adjustments to the recorded data and/or decisions concerning the initial claims based on the information provided in the subsequent claims;

(f) New evidence: the Board decided that in cases where new information or evidence demonstrates a technical or substantive error in a decision made

concerning a claim, a correction to the recorded data and/or included or excluded losses may be made upon the Board's approval;

(g) Duplication: the Board decided that in cases where duplicate claims (i.e. claims for the same losses submitted by the same claimant) have been mistakenly included in the Register, one of them shall be removed from the Register and such removal shall be reflected in a formal Board decision;

(h) Reduction in value of land: the Board decided that, in general, in cases where the land is between the Green Line and the wall, a claim for reduction in value of land is deemed to be too speculative;

(i) Flood damage to residence: the Board decided that in cases where a claimant constructed a residence on his or her land after the construction of the wall and the residence is thereafter damaged by floods caused by the construction of the wall, the damage to the residence may be included as the claimant should not be deemed to have knowledge of the risk or likelihood of a flood affecting his or her land and damaging his or her residence;

(j) Regular family visits: the Board decided that in cases where claimants relocated because the wall impeded access to their educational establishments and have claimed the additional transportation costs that they incurred to visit their families, those costs may be included in the Register on the basis of the right to family life being a recognized human right and a customary expectation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Similarly, the Board decided that transportation expenses and/or the costs of maintaining an additional residence for a claimant to make regular visits to his or her spouse or parents may be included in the Register in cases where travel involves access to the seam zone or is otherwise impeded by the wall;

(k) Evidence for claims for restriction of access to basic goods and/or services: the Board decided that a claimant's identification document may constitute sufficient proof of residence in a locality that is an enclave, such as Qalqilyah, or where a claimant is similarly restricted by the wall in accessing basic goods and services, and that losses relating to such restrictions of access may be included in the Register;

(l) Road 443 and "fabric of life" roads: some claimants have asserted that the closure of Road 443 and the construction of "fabric of life" roads are connected to the wall. In a court case concerning the closure of Road 443, Israeli authorities stated that "fabric of life" roads were being constructed to reduce the harm caused by the closure of roads "as part of the security fence project". After assessing the situation, the Board decided that losses caused by the closure of Road 443 and the construction of "fabric of life" roads may be included in the Register.

11. As before, the Board would like to express its appreciation for the indispensable cooperation extended by the Palestinian National Authority and the Palestinian National Committee for the Register of Damage, as well as for the support provided by local governors, mayors and members of village councils on many practical aspects, without which outreach and claim-intake activities could not be undertaken successfully. As for the Government of Israel, it continues to consider that any claims in relation to damage caused by the construction of the wall should be addressed through the existing Israeli mechanism. On the practical level, the Executive Director of the Register of Damage continues to maintain constructive contacts with relevant Israeli authorities, and, during the reporting period, the Office of the Register of Damage did not experience any problems with access, delivery of needed materials or issuance of required visas. On occasion, the security situation impeded claims-intake activity.

12. The Board of the Register of Damage notes with satisfaction the good cooperation with United Nations agencies and offices present on the ground in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, as called for in paragraph 14 of General Assembly resolution ES-10/17. The Board especially appreciates the efficient and tangible contribution provided by the United Nations Office for Project Services in the areas of logistics, procurement, human and financial resources, and management in support of the Register of Damage. During the reporting period, the Register of Damage also continued to benefit from the advice and assistance of the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs and cooperation with the Department of Political Affairs.

13. The outreach and claim-intake activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which are currently conducted by 10 claim intakers of the Register of Damage, have been funded by voluntary contributions from 21 donors. The Governments of Algeria, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Finland, France, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Malta, Morocco, the Netherlands, Norway, the Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland and Turkey, as well as the European Commission and the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Fund for International Development, have donated over $6.7 million. Several Governments, as well as the OPEC Fund, have donated to the Register of Damage two or more times.

14. The Board would like to express its appreciation to those donors for providing funding and political support enabling the implementation of the provisions of General Assembly resolution ES-10/17. However, the resources that are currently available will be exhausted by the end of August 2017, thus putting into question the continuation of the claim-intake activity in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

15. The Board commends the staff of the Office of the Register of Damage for their diligent and dedicated work.

16. The Board of the Register of Damage will continue to provide periodic reports.

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Identical letters dated 17 July 2017 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I write to alert you to the critical situation in the Occupied State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem, due to Israel's relentless provocations and illegal actions against the Palestinian people. The occupying Power continues daily to commit grave violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, which are exacerbating the humanitarian, social, economic, political and security situation on the ground. As a result, the hardships faced by the Palestinian civilian population continue to mount and any real possibility and hope to achieve peace based on the two-State solution on the 1967 borders are vanishing.

First, I must draw your urgent attention to the dangerous situation in Occupied East Jerusalem. Over the years, we have cautioned that Israel's pursuit of illegal policies and measures, along with incessant provocations and incitement by Jewish extremists and Israeli government officials, against the holy places in the City, especially at the Aqsa Mosque compound (Haram al-Sharif) have aggravated religious sensitivities and tensions, amounting to an explosive situation. Today, we are witnessing the same provocative actions by the occupying Power, further fuelling already-high tensions and further destabilizing the fragile situation on the ground.

Following the violent incidents on Friday, 14 July 2017, in Occupied East Jerusalem, and after the clear statement of condemnation issued by President Mahmoud Abbas in that regard, Israel has once again reneged on the assurances given to maintain and uphold the historic status quo at the Haram al-Sharif. In word and in practice, the occupying Power is doing the exact opposite. In fact, the Israeli occupying authorities implemented three days of closure, as well as "additional security measures", such as the installation of the metal detectors as well as additional security cameras outside the compound. Such measures were imposed, preventing the entry and worship of Palestinian civilians, all while Israelis and tourists continued to be allowed to enter the Old City and even the Aqsa Mosque compound. Moreover, the Mufti of Jerusalem, Sheikh Mohammad Hussein, along

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with 58 staff of the Waqf and Endowment Department, were assaulted and detained for hours of interrogations, and the occupying authorities ordered the Aqsa Mosque's guards not to go to the mosque.

Such Israeli provocations and violations of the Palestinian people's human rights, including their right to worship, will surely do nothing to "restore calm", but rather create fertile conditions for clashes and violence to continue and escalate. This is precisely what ensued today when clashes broke out between so-called Israeli police and Palestinian Muslim worshippers near the Haram al-Sharif. The Palestinian Red Crescent reported a number of injuries resulting from such clashes, including reports that the Chair of the Palestinian National Initiative and former Palestinian Minister of Information, Mustafa Barghouti, was hit in the head by a rubber bullet and taken to Al-Makassed Hospital in East Jerusalem.

We reiterate that all such illegal Israeli actions at the Haram al-Sharif and throughout the rest of Occupied East Jerusalem constitute violations of the numerous relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions calling for a cessation of all Israeli policies and measures aimed at altering the character, legal status and demography of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and calling for respect by Israel, the occupying Power, of its obligations under international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, which prohibits such actions. This includes the erection of metal detectors and other measures that have been taken by the occupying Power.

We condemn the closure of the Aqsa Mosque by Israel, the occupying Power, and all of the above-mentioned provocative and inflammatory measures. We call upon the international community to ensure that Israel swiftly reverses its recent measures and ends all actions and policies that harm the delicate nature of the historic status quo in order to ensure the de-escalation of this perilous situation in Occupied East Jerusalem.

At the same time, inciting statements by Israeli government officials are exacerbating the situation and must be condemned and cease. We refer in this regard to the statement by the Israeli Minister of Public Security, Gilad Erdan, who declared: "Israel holds sovereignty over the Mount, no matter what other countries' positions are, and if we decide that a certain move has a certain advantage, then it is carried out." Following this statement, the so-called Israeli "ministerial committee for legislation affairs" approved a bill, on 16 July, that "prohibits the division of Jerusalem city in any future peace deal with the Palestinians".

Such inflammatory rhetoric is clearly aimed at illegally and forcibly asserting Israeli control over the Haram al-Sharif in the heart of Occupied East Jerusalem, which remains an integral part of the Palestinian Territory occupied by Israel since 1967, and clearly also aimed as incitement against the Palestinian people and their leadership. We must recall in this regard the recent authoritative decision by the Security Council, in its resolution 2334 (2016) underscoring that "it will not recognize any changes to the 4 June 1967 lines, including with regard to Jerusalem, other than those agreed by the parties through negotiations". We further stress that this holy site, the first qiblah and the third-holiest site in Islam, remains under the supervision of the Islamic Waqf and recall the special role of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan with regard to the Muslim and Christian holy sites in the City.

Simultaneously, Israel persists with its grave human rights violations against the Palestinian people, including the right to life. Palestinian civilians, including children, continue to be killed or seriously injured as the Israeli occupying forces and settler militias continue to use excessive, indiscriminate force against our defenceless, occupied people, with utter impunity. On 12 July, occupying forces shot and killed two young Palestinians, Aws Muhammad Youssif Salameh (age 17)

and Saad Nasser Hassan Abd al-Fattah Salah (age 20), and injured at least two other people after a violent military raid into Jenin refugee camp. Two days later, on 14 July, a Palestinian youth, Barra' Hamamdeh (age 18) was shot dead and two others sustained gunshot wounds fired by occupying forces in Dheisheh refugee camp in Bethlehem. Arrest and detention raids also continue to be carried out daily in the West Bank, and Palestinian civilians continue to be detained, with young men and boys fiercely targeted by the Israeli occupying forces, who routinely assault, humiliate and abuse Palestinian civilians during arrest, interrogation and detention.

It is clear that without determined international action to end this abhorrent, illegal 50-year Israeli occupation and all the crimes against the Palestinian people stemming from and sustaining the occupation, Israel will continue to disregard Palestinian life and continue to act above the law, without fear of punishment or consequences. A concrete example of this is the recent decision to transfer the Israeli soldier who was convicted of shooting and executing a Palestinian as he lay wounded on the ground in March 2016 to house arrest in the coming day, reaffirming that when it comes to Israeli crimes against Palestinians, even those caught on camera, accountability and justice are totally absent.

Of course, along with such gross human rights violations, the occupying Power has persisted with its colonization of our land, constructing more settlements and the wall, confiscating and destroying Palestinian lands and properties and forcibly displacing Palestinian civilians, all in flagrant and grave breach of international humanitarian law and the Rome Statute, constituting war crimes. Just one week prior, the so-called "Israeli municipality" in Jerusalem approved the construction of another 800 settlement units in Occupied East Jerusalem. This latest illegal settlement announcement has been reported to comprise the construction of 276 units in the illegal settlement of "Pisgat Ze'ev", 120 in "Neve Ya'akov", 200 in "Ramot" and 202 in "Gillo", further isolating Jerusalem from its natural Palestinian environs and further fragmenting and destroying the contiguity of the Palestinian territory and the viability of the two-State solution on the 1967 lines, in violation of international law, the relevant United Nations resolutions and the international consensus in this regard.

We must also draw attention once again to the grave situation in the Gaza Strip. The Palestinian civilian population in Gaza continues to suffer immensely from the impact of Israel's suffocating, immoral decade-long blockade, an act of gross collective punishment. The dire humanitarian crisis that has prevailed there for years is worsening by the day. Here, we must recall the August 2012 United Nations country team report on Gaza, which documented the catastrophic humanitarian situation there and the deplorable socioeconomic and environmental conditions and predicted that by 2020 Gaza would be "unliveable" for humans. That report has been followed by a new report, "Gaza: 10 years later", which states, inter alia, that "life for the average Palestinian in Gaza is getting more and more wretched"; and that "most of the projections for 2020 have in fact deteriorated even further and faster than anticipated".

This alarming assessment must be taken seriously and requires immediate remedial action. We continue to call for the lifting of the Israeli blockade and an end to Israel's constant attacks against Gaza and the Palestinian population living there. The risk of implosion of the situation and another devastating cycle of violence must be averted at all costs, and the dignity and humanity of the Palestinian people living there must be restored, along with their hopes for an end to this nightmare and a better future, hopes which are rapidly and dangerously diminishing.

Before concluding, we are compelled to share just some of the many crimes perpetrated by the occupying Power in the period since our previous letter to you:

18 June 2017

- Israeli naval occupying forces opened fire at Palestinian fishing boats off the coast of Gaza City, forcing the fishermen to sail back to shore fearing for their lives.
- A Palestinian man was injured when his vehicle flipped over after being chased by occupying forces near Surif in Al-Khalil (Hebron).

19 June 2017

- Occupying forces detained 21 Palestinians, including a blind man, in predawn raids in the West Bank.

20 June 2017

- Israeli occupying forces detained at least 17 Palestinians during overnight raids across the West Bank.
- Occupying forces shot and killed a Palestinian near the illegal Qalandiya military checkpoint in Ramallah.

21 June 2017

- Occupying forces detained at least 16 Palestinians in raids across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.
- Israeli bulldozers continued, for the second day in a row, levelling Palestinian lands south of Nablus in preparation for new illegal settlement construction.

22 June 2017

- Israeli military bulldozers entered the northern Gaza Strip and levelled lands near the Jabalia refugee camp.

23 June 2017

- Israeli occupying forces detained seven Palestinians during raids across the northern West Bank.

24 June 2017

- The occupying Power denied a Palestinian teenager, Khalid Ghamri (age 17), an exit permit to travel from the besieged Gaza Strip to Jerusalem for medical treatment after the boy was shot and critically injured by occupying forces on 23 May 2017.

26 June 2017

- Dozens of Israeli settlers, under the protection of Israeli occupying forces, raided an area near the village of Sanur in Janin and shouted racist and anti-Arab epithets at Palestinian civilians.

28 June 2017

- Israeli occupying forces detained at least 14 Palestinians, including a member of the Palestinian Legislative Council, in overnight raids across the West Bank.
- Israeli occupying forces took down and destroyed at least 60 solar panels in the isolated village of Jubbit al-Dhib, east of Bethlehem.

- Israeli settlers from the illegal settlement of "Yitzhar" raided Burin in Nablus, igniting a fire on lands near the village before fleeing the scene.
- Iyad Munir Arafat Ghaith (age 23) was shot and killed by occupying forces in a raid in Al-Khalil (Hebron).

30 June 2017

- Israeli occupying forces detained at least five Palestinians during overnight raids across the West Bank as a Palestinian teenage girl was beaten by occupying soldiers in Al-Khalil (Hebron).
- Occupying forces detained a 15-year-old Palestinian and attempted to detain a 10-year-old child in a raid in the area of Kurum al-Qamar in the Silwan neighbourhood of Occupied East Jerusalem, while occupying forces handed out demolition orders to two Palestinian families in the Wadi Hulwah area of Silwan.

2 July 2017

- Dozens of Palestinians were injured, at least one seriously, and one young man was detained in Occupied East Jerusalem.

3 July 2017

- Occupying forces detained 18 Palestinians in predawn military raids carried out across the West Bank.

5 July 2017

- A group of Israeli settlers violently attacked and beat Hisham Raghib Abu Isha (age 22) on Shuhada' street, in the Old City of Al-Khalil (Hebron), while occupying forces stood by watching.
- Israeli occupying forces detained at least 30 Palestinians, including three teenagers and a disabled man, during military raids across the West Bank.

6 July 2017

- Israeli occupying forces assaulted Palestinian residents during a raid in the Occupied East Jerusalem neighbourhood of Silwan; two Palestinians were detained.

7 July 2017

- Omar Ahmad Issa (age 37) was killed after being run over by an Israeli settler west of Bethlehem.

8 July 2017

- A Palestinian infant, Abd al-Rahman Barghouti (18 months), died some two months after suffering from tear gas inhalation when occupying forces shot tear gas at Palestinian homes in the village of Aboud.

10 July 2017

- Occupying forces shot and killed Mohammad Ibrahim Jibril (age 24), from Tuqu', south of Bethlehem, following an alleged car-ramming attack.
- Occupying forces detained 14 Palestinians, including two young minors, during raids across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

11 July 2017

- A Palestinian child, Nour Hamdan (age 13) lost his eye after Israeli occupying forces shot him with a sponge-tipped bullet in the Occupied East Jerusalem neighbourhood of Isawiyah.

12 July 2017

- Israeli occupying forces shot and killed two young Palestinians, Aws Muhammad Youssif Salameh (age 17) and Saad Nasser Hassan Abd al-Fattah Salah (age 20), and injured at least two others after a violent military raid into Jenin refugee camp.
- Occupying forces detained at least 23 Palestinians in predawn detention raids across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.
- Occupying forces detained a United Nations official based in the Gaza Strip, Hamdan Muhammad Hassan Timraz (age 61), the assistant regional director for the United Nations Department of Safety and Security in the Gaza Strip, at the "Erez" crossing.
- The so-called "Israeli municipality" in Jerusalem approved the construction of 800 new settlement units in Occupied East Jerusalem.

13 July 2017

- Israeli occupying forces detained seven Palestinians during military raids and search campaigns carried out across the West Bank.
- Occupying forces opened live fire towards Palestinian shepherds and farmers to the east of the town of Juhr al-Dik, south-east of Gaza.
- Occupying forces raided two Palestinian media agencies in Al-Khalil (Hebron) and seized equipment.

14 July 2017

- Israeli settlers threw stones at Palestinian cars passing by the village of Fardis to the east of Bethlehem.
- A Palestinian youth, Barra' Hamamdeh (age 18), was shot dead and two others sustained gunshot wounds fired by Israeli occupying forces in Dheisheh refugee camp in Bethlehem.

16 July 2017

- Israeli settlers set up five illegal caravans on lands near the village of Khadir, to the south of Bethlehem.
- The occupying Power's so-called "ministerial committee for legislation affairs" approved a bill that prohibits the division of Jerusalem city in any future peace deal with the Palestinians.
- Occupying forces shot and killed Ammar Tirawi (age 34) near the village of Nabi Salih, north-west of Ramallah.

17 July 2017

- Israeli occupying forces seized at least 70 dunums (70,000 m^2) of Palestinian land in the village of Jaba', north-west of Bethlehem.

- Israeli naval occupying forces shot and injured two unarmed Palestinian fishermen who were working off the coast of Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip.

- Israeli occupying forces detained at least 16 Palestinians and set up multiple roadblocks during overnight military raids across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

In the light of all of these ongoing Israeli violations and as evidenced by the mounting list of human rights violations and international humanitarian law violations, Israel, the occupying Power, remains in complete disrespect and contempt of the law, causing endless suffering and anguish for the Palestinian people and destruction to the land of the State of Palestine. We call for urgent action to compel Israel to completely halt all of its crimes against the Palestinian people. We also call for an end to its illegal colonization of the Occupied State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem. All measures aimed at altering the demography, character and status of the occupied territory must be immediately and completely ceased, including all such measures affecting the historic status quo at the Haram al-Sharif.

This is imperative to stem the deterioration and reverse the dangerous reality on the ground. Collective action must be undertaken to uphold international law and to give meaning to the many relevant United Nations resolutions that remain unimplemented, including Security Council resolution 2334 (2016). The time is long overdue for the international community, with the Security Council at the forefront, to uphold its responsibilities and to stop Israel from acting as a State above the law and to finally end this illegal occupation in all its manifestations.

This letter is in follow-up to our 614 previous letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 16 June 2017 (A/ES-10/755-S/2017/513) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer
of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

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Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Seventy-second year

Identical letters dated 21 July 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Due to ongoing destabilization and escalating tensions in Occupied Palestine, we are compelled, in follow-up to our letter of 17 July, to once again draw your urgent attention to the situation in Occupied East Jerusalem. Intensifying aggressions against the Palestinian people by Israel, the occupying Power, which today resulted in the death of three Palestinian youths and the injury of nearly 200 other Palestinians, and against holy sites in the City, particularly the Haram al-Sharif, which houses the Aqsa Mosque, are cause for extreme alarm. This situation necessitates immediate efforts by the international community, particularly the Security Council, to stem the dangerous deterioration, avert further volatility and protect civilian life.

The Palestinian leadership thus reiterates its calls for serious action to compel Israel, the occupying Power, to halt immediately and completely its violations of international law, including humanitarian law and human rights law. The occupying Power must be demanded to cease its military aggression against the Palestinian civilian population, including worshippers and peaceful protesters. We decry the loss of innocent civilian life and mourn the death today of the three young Palestinians, who joined the long list of innocent Palestinians killed by this illegal, immoral and brutal occupation in the prime of their lives.

Mohammed Mahmoud Sharaf, aged 18, from the Silwan neighbourhood of Occupied East Jerusalem, was shot and killed by an Israeli settler in Ra's al-Amud. Mohammed Abu Ghanam, aged 20, was shot and killed by Israeli occupying forces during demonstrations following Friday prayers in the Tur neighbourhood of Occupied East Jerusalem. Mohammed Khalaf, aged 17, was shot dead by Israeli occupying forces during a demonstration in the Abu Dis neighbourhood of the City. We condemn the occupation's perpetration of unlawful killings and injuries against our civilians and the terror and extremism of its settlers, and call for full accountability in accordance with international law.

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At the same time, the Palestinian leadership reiterates its condemnation of Israel's provocative, discriminatory and unilateral measures and all the other restrictions recently imposed by the occupying Power at the Aqsa Mosque compound, in violation of the historic status quo and numerous relevant United Nations resolutions and constituting both a blatant aggression against those who wish to worship at the holy sites in East Jerusalem and flagrant violations of the rights of the Palestinian people, including their freedom of worship. We call once again for the cessation of all provocations and incitement regarding the Aqsa Mosque compound and respect for the sanctity of this holy site.

Israel, the occupying Power, must respect the historic status quo at this sacred site and cease all actions that inflame the situation and risk exacerbating heightened religious sensitivities, with potentially grave consequences. Here we recall that, in addition to closing the Aqsa Mosque compound for more than 48 hours last week, the occupying Power closed entrances to the Old City of Jerusalem and prevented Palestinians from entering or leaving the City. Yet at the same time, Israelis and tourists continued to be allowed to enter the Old City and even the compound. Moreover, Israeli occupying authorities placed numerous iron fences around the gates of the Old City to control and obstruct the movement and access of worshippers. After an outpouring of international condemnation, Israeli occupying authorities decided to "partially reopen" the compound to Palestinians; however, an unprecedented, unilateral decision was taken to install electronic gates at the Asbat, Majlis (Nazir) and Silsilah Gates, while closing off the rest of the gates. Because of the measures taken by the occupying authorities, the Waqf employees and Palestinians, both Muslim and Christian, have refused to enter through any of these gates in protest at these latest illegal, unilateral measures.

The occupying Power's actions have created a fertile environment for a renewed cycle of violence and confrontation between defenceless Palestinian civilians and the Israeli military occupying forces. Indeed, Israeli occupying forces have been routinely firing live ammunition, tear gas and rubber-coated bullets at civilians who have been protesting, en masse and peacefully, against Israel's discriminatory, so-called security measures and the ban on Palestinian boys and men under the age of 50 from entering the Haram al-Sharif.

As we have continuously reiterated over the years, Israeli closures and measures regarding the Aqsa Mosque compound should not be seen as isolated events, but rather as part of broader, long-running Israeli policies to alter the character, status and demography of Occupied East Jerusalem and transform it into a Jewish-only city. As such, what is taking place this week cannot be divorced from other incessant illegal policies and practices being carried out by Israel throughout the City and the rest of the West Bank, including its construction and expansion of settlements, demolition of homes, forced evictions and displacement of Palestinian families. Nor can it be divorced from the deep culture of impunity that permeates the ranks of the occupation forces and illegal terrorist settlers who attack Palestinian civilians on a daily basis without consequence or fear of it.

Nevertheless, despite the fact that Israel has been insistently trying to forcibly alter the status of East Jerusalem since the onset of its occupation in 1967, we recall once more that the international community has rightly never recognized Israeli sovereignty over East Jerusalem and considers it occupied territory. We further reiterate that all illegal Israeli actions at the Haram al-Sharif and throughout the rest of Occupied East Jerusalem constitute violations of the numerous relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution 2334 (2016), and General Assembly resolutions calling for a cessation of all Israeli policies and measures aimed at altering the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and calling for

respect by the occupying Power for its obligations under international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, which explicitly prohibits such actions.

We therefore call upon the international community to vocally condemn these illegal actions by Israel, the occupying Power, and to firmly demand that it immediately cease the measures and provocations that are violating the status quo, stoking religious sensitivities and fuelling the current violence and bloody confrontations. Israel, the occupying Power, must respect the Waqf's custodianship over the entire Aqsa compound, the Palestinian right to free access to the compound, the right of Muslims to worship at the compound without interference and the role of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan as the custodian of the Muslim and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem.

Moreover, all measures aimed at altering the demography, character and status of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, must immediately and completely cease, including all such measures affecting the historic status quo at the Haram al-Sharif. This is imperative to stem the deterioration and reverse the dangerous reality on the ground before the situation spirals out of control, and we reiterate our urgent appeal for serious efforts in this regard.

The present letter is in follow-up to our previous 615 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 17 July 2017 (A/ES-10/757-S/2017/611), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Feda **Abdelhady-Nasser**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.